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In view of the continued pressure on Britain's universities, men and women who have served in the Armed Forces will, as in the past, be given preference when applying for admission in the coming academic year. In addition, this year, it has been decided to add to the class of priority students men who entered the coal-mining industry as an alternative to military service and who will have been released by the beginning of the new academic year.



NOTHING OFFICIAL

Stories in circulation about an impending conference of the Prime Ministers of the British Commonwealth of nations has aroused deep interest in this capital but it is now learned that there has been no communications of an official character between Ottawa and London regarding such a meeting.

HINT ON RATES

"I would say that we should not reduce the postage rates too soon for this reason", said Postmaster General Ernest Bertrand. "In the United States, immediately after the war their ordinary letter rates were reduced from three cents to two cents and from four cents to three cents. The air mail postage rate was also reduced. The result was that at the end of last year there was a deficit of \$442,000,000."

Nevertheless, there is a growing opinion along Parliament Hill among observers that the lower postage rates in the United States compared with Canadian rates is causing much discontent in this country, especially since the planes in Canada are only partially loaded now and the American air mail rates are definitely lower.

NORTHERN DEFENCES

When he was asked about a statement in the press to the effect "that \$100 million is being spent by the United States for the improvement of northern defences" that, under a declaration already made in Parliament by Premier King as well as an identical statement made at the same time in the United States, arrangements for defence co-operation between the two countries which had been seen in force during the war continued.

"Under those arrangements it is expressly stated that any activities in either country will be completely under the control of the country in which it is done", Mr. Claxton stated, "and will be done only after an express arrangement is made with regard to that work. If any work is being done in Canada, it is in accordance with that arrangement."

NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

It is evident from the general reaction of the business public across Canada that many Canadians are expecting a tremendous 'boom' in purchases resulting from the operation of the European Recovery Program and "off-shore" buying in this country for the ERP, with considerable opinion growing that the ERP would soon be responsible for easing the import bans imposed by the Canadian Government due to the shortage of U.S. dollars. However, no early results along these lines seem to be expected by those who should know along Parliament Hill, with the importance of this being apparent. "It is not, expected, however, that either the volume or direction of Canadian trade will be significantly altered by this development from that of recent years," said External Affairs Minister Louis St. Laurent, indicating that a sizeable proportion of the ERP funds which the U.S. Congress has authorized will be used for purchases outside the U.S., such as in Canada but these latter so called "off-shore" purchases may only enable us to continue to send to Western Europe commodities which otherwise, because of our own dollar difficulties we would have had to direct to countries that could provide us with dollars or goods in return.

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Recently, this means to a veteran observer backstage in this capital that, even with the ERP providing Canada with U.S. dollars now, no early easing of the Canadian Government's "austerity" program or import controls on U.S. goods can be expected.

In other words, Mr. St. Laurent on behalf of the Canadian Government, simply said that Canada must have a surplus in our international balance of payments before Canada can even consider the extension of any further financial aid to Western Europe. "In order to secure such a surplus we must," he emphasized in no uncertain language, "among other things expand our exports, continue to do without many of our traditional imports from dollar countries, and secure more of

WATCHING COMMUNISTS

"I am not in position to make a statement about the program of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in watching Communists in Canada", said Justice Minister J.L. Hays in the House of Commons. "I do not think it would be desirable for me to make such a statement in the House. It is well known that for many years the R.C.M.P. has been keenly alive to the possibilities of

(continued on next page.)

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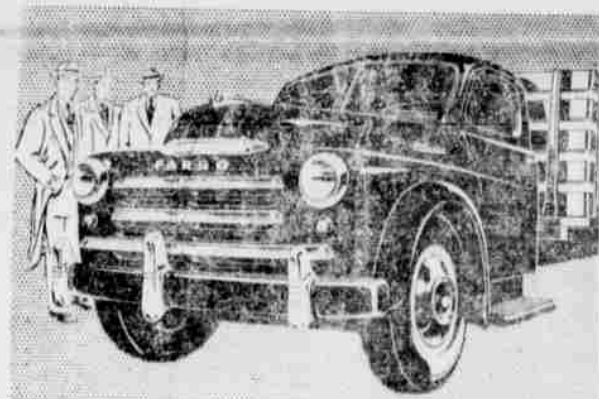
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